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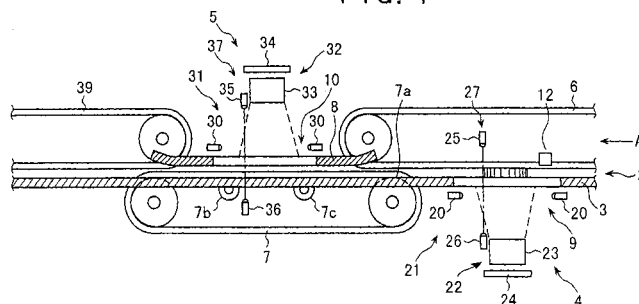
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(54) **Coin discriminating apparatus**

(57) A coin discriminating apparatus includes a magnetic sensor for detecting magnetic properties of a coin being transported and producing magnetic data of the coin, an optical sensor for producing optical data of the coin, a reference optical data memory for storing reference optical data of an obverse surface and a reverse surface of coins of each denomination, a reference magnetic data memory for storing reference magnetic data of an obverse surface and a reverse surface of coins of each denomination to be discriminated, a first coin discriminator for comparing optical data of the coin produced by the optical sensor with reference optical data of an obverse surface and a reverse surface of coins of each denomination and determining whether or not the coin is acceptable and the denomination of the coin, and a second coin discriminator for reading from the reference magnetic data memory magnetic reference data

selected depending upon whether reference optical data of the obverse surface of a coin of a certain denomination or those of the reverse surface of the coin of the denomination were used when the first coin discriminator determined the coin to be acceptable and the denomination of the coin based thereon and comparing them with the magnetic data produced by the magnetic sensor, thereby finally discriminating whether or not the coin is acceptable and the denomination of the coin. According to the thus constituted coin discriminating apparatus, it is possible to accurately discriminate a counterfeit coin even when optical data acquired from the counterfeit coin such as diameter data and surface pattern data thereof coincide with those of genuine coins of a certain denomination and when the magnetic data acquired from the counterfeit coin are similar to those of coins of the denomination.

FIG. 1





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 6 October 2003	Examiner Van Dop, E
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